Functional Atlas of Orphan Nuclear Receptors

Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program

Definition: The Pilot and Feasibility Grant Program provides research support for a limited time (1-2 years) to enable eligible investigators to explore the feasibility of a concept related to the mission of the Functional Atlas of Orphan Nuclear Receptors consortium and generate sufficient data to pursue it through other funding mechanisms (R01). Pilot and feasibility studies are intended to fill gaps in the Atlas program by: (1) allowing for the exploration of possible innovative new leads or directions for established investigators in Orphan Nuclear Receptors, or (2) to stimulate investigators from other areas to lend their expertise to research in this area. Pilot and feasibility study support is not intended for large projects by established investigators that would otherwise be submitted as separate research grant applications.

Requirements: Projects are restricted to a maximum of $75,000 in direct costs per year. Renewal for a second year is contingent on progress and continued focus on 'Atlas' objectives.

Eligibility and related guidelines: Investigators eligible for pilot and feasibility funding generally fall into three categories: (1) new investigators without current or past NIH research support as a principal investigator, (2) established investigators with no previous work in Orphan or Nuclear Receptors who wish to apply their expertise to a problem in this area, and (3) established investigators in Orphan or Nuclear Receptors who propose testing highly innovative ideas that represent a clear departure from ongoing research interests. All eligible investigators must have faculty appointments and be independent investigators. These awards are not intended to be for postdoctoral training. Each pilot and feasibility study proposal should state clearly the justification for eligibility of the investigator under one of the above three criteria.

A proposed pilot and feasibility study should present a testable hypothesis or alternatively, a strong scientific rationale for the development or application of an essential reagent, assay, or innovative technology that would advance the goals of the 'Atlas' consortium. The proposal should clearly delineate the questions being asked, detail the procedures to be followed, and discuss how the data will be analyzed and fill a gap in the 'Atlas' program. It must be on a topic related and complementary to the mission of the Functional Atlas of Orphan Nuclear Receptors Consortium (see http://www.NIDDK.NIH.gov). Projects should be focused, since funding for these studies is modest. Progress will be evaluated to determine whether a second year of support is warranted. In principle, an investigator is eligible only once for this support, unless the proposed work is considered of vital long-term importance to the 'Atlas' consortium. Applicants should address IP issues and willingness to share according to 'Atlas' policies.

A PHS 398 application kit should be used for submitting a pilot and feasibility study. Each project should begin with a face page, abstract, and budget pages followed by

information requested in Sections A through I of the instructions for the PHS 398 grant application (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms_faq.pdf). It should be submitted generally using the NIH research project application format, with appropriate signatures on the face page, but the description of the proposed research should be limited to **five** pages. All pilot and feasibility studies (5 copies) should be submitted no later than **March 15, 2003** to:

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Additional information about the 'Functional Atlas for Orphan Nuclear Receptors' may be obtained from:

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